

Proposal for SSFL Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) Forum

Based on past discussions, the SSFL Team and Community Involvement staff agreed that the only way to proceed with the TASC program is to establish a process that is open to anyone who wishes to participate and not to award the resources to any singular community organization. The acceptable approach is an open forum, with the onus on the TASC Forum to use a venue that is separate from the current locations/dates used by the groups that have expressed interest in TASC. The outline that follows provides both background information and proposed path forward to provide technical assistance to the diverse SSFL community.

Purpose

To equitably provide technical assistance to the SSFL community as a whole through the TASC program that is independent of affiliation with any single community organization or regulatory process.

Background

1. History / Concerns about TASC @ SSFL
 - a. Notifications/outreach
 - i. Nov/Dec 08 fact sheet and public meeting
 - b. Expressions of interest from multiple community groups
 - c. ACME withdrawal / TASC informational meeting / EPA at SSMAC meeting
 - d. ARRA 2-year time frame / Elected official interest (Waxman, potentially others)
 - e. Internal discussion – TASC independence crucial (Staff commitments/Agency Decision)
2. Technical Assistance Needs
 - a. Basic radiological
 - b. Health and cleanup program information (including RCRA)
 - c. Interpretation of technical documents
3. Interested Parties
 - a. Requestors
 - b. Congressional staff
 - c. Workgroup
 - d. Members of the community at large
 - e. State and Federal counterparts
 - f. US EPA – OSWER/CI

Implementation

1. Framework: There will be a few imposed guidelines to prevent filibuster or group dominance

- a. EPA helps establish a "TASC Forum" with a mission to provide open and equal access to technical assistance services to anyone who has site-related technical questions.
 - b. Priorities for technical assistance will initially be based upon the deadlines of deliverables and/or further agreements that equitably allocate contractor time and resources to address technical assistance needs.
 - c. Forum participants will develop a dynamic scope of work generated by open forum and modified over time based on the same open meeting process.
 - d. There are no requirements that participants be a part of a specific group.
 - e. All contractor outputs would be available to all interested parties.
 - f. EPA RPMs will have a minimal role in the TASC Forum and will not be required to attend any of the public meetings, although they may choose to do so at their discretion.
 - g. General coordination of TASC will be performed by Luis Garcia-Bakarich (TASC Contract Manager).
 - h. Community Involvement and TASC follow-up, where appropriate, will be performed by David Cooper (Community Involvement Coordinator).
 - i. As with EPA's rad studies, the TASC Forum will strive for transparency.
2. Consensus: Consensus with the Scope of Work is defined as each participant agreeing that anyone can contribute any idea to the Scope of Work without prejudice. Participants may request more technical support than TASC's initial resources can provide or include subjects that are not site-related, which will be addressed through the facilitated SOW development process.
 3. Facilitation: EPA and TASC would facilitate the initial meetings and when appropriate the EPA will surrender the process to ongoing TASC facilitation.
 4. Conflict Resolution: Although there is conflict between groups, TASC would only become involved in those conflicts that pertain to the operation of the workgroup or prioritization of topics.
 5. Cessation and Close-out
 - a. Mutual workgroup agreement
 - b. TASC contractor's determination of inefficacy
 - c. Competing Regional Priorities / Budgetary Limitations

purpose to
convene to
see if there
is a scope
of work that
would
work

then proceed or
not proceed.

— discrete decision

EPA's Communications and Initiation

1. Communications Strategy:
 - a. Contact the federal, state and local elected officials via conference call to share EPA's plan to proceed
 - b. Contact the federal, state and local agencies similarly
 - c. Contact interested parties with the news that TASC will be made available
 - d. Fact sheet distribution
 - e. Maintenance of workgroup information/agenda on US EPA SSFL website
2. Initiation of TASC Workgroup
 - a. Fact sheet announcing kick-off meeting (verify mailing list to include those who attended TASC informational meeting)
 - b. Kick-off meeting facilitated by EPA and TASC to generate meeting process / scope of work:
 - i. Ground rules
 - ii. Internal communication protocols
 - iii. Priorities
 - iv. Meeting schedule/frequency
 - v. Additional outreach needs
 - vi. Scope of Work
 - vii. Maintain TASC Workgroup information/agenda to the US EPA SSFL website.
3. Messages:
 - a. TASC is a national program that provides the services of an independent, professional, technical advisor to answer site-related questions.
 - b. TASC is non-advocacy and only professional opinions are expressed.
 - c. The TASC process outcomes or deliverables are for the community – TASC does not provide comments or recommendations directly to agencies.
 - d. The TASC process is independent of any regulatory process.
 - e. Regulators may review TASC deliverables at their discretion; however they are not obliged to abide by them.
 - f. Multiple segments of the SSFL community have requested TASC services.
 - g. The EPA through the TASC contractors will establish a neutral and open forum where the members of the community can engage with TASC services.
 - h. All correspondence regarding TASC should be directed to work assignment manager (Luis Garcia-Bakarich) or CIC (David Cooper).